

**107 - THE EVENT OF A DISEASE AS CANCER: THE REPRESENTATIONAL  
LOOK OF MOTHERS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The number of cases of cancer has increased considerably worldwide, mainly from the last century, setting up right now, as one of the most important public health problems worldwide (GUERRA, GALLO and MENDONÇA, 2005).

In childhood, the incidence of malignant neoplasms ranges from 1 to 4% of cancer registries in population-based (BRASIL, 2005 apud BELTRÃO et al, 2007). In these circumstances, it was considered an acute disease and evolution invariably fatal and it is one of the leading causes of death common in Brazil (MOREIRA, 2007).

Due to the complexity of the disease and treatment, the life of the child and his family go through several transformations, being necessary to adapt to a new routine and requirements that will become part of daily family life (MOREIRA, 2007).

From this perspective, health services, in pursuit of excellence, are looking at new paradigms care, considering, in addition to the needs of the child, his family, thus expanding the care (MELESKI, 2002 apud BELTRÃO et al, 2007).

It is clear that, in health institutions, that the mother is the family members accompanying the child more frequently, both in outpatient treatment and hospitalization (OLIVEIRA, COSTA AND NÓBREGA, 2006).

The emotional investment that mobilizes the disease, demonstrates the urgent need to understand how to build the social representations of childhood cancer for mothers accompanying their children to make better and more interactive driving treatment.

Through literature research we intend to acquire a greater understanding of content and symbolic system of beliefs involving the mothers of children affected by cancer therapy during the therapeutic itinerary.

**METHODOLOGY**

The methodology for this study is exploring the qualitative aspects of the phenomenon through a literature search. The data collection took place through the electronic search of articles and theses indexed in the databases of the University of São Paulo (USP), Catholic University of Pernambuco (UNICAP), Latin American Literature of Health Sciences (LILACS) and Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO).

The study was conducted from 2008 March to April. It was used the following descriptors: pediatric nursing, child, parent-child relationship and family. We defined four categories on the topic to be discussed below.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ARTICLES****1. The look of mothers before the diagnosis of cancer**

Studies show that the diagnosis of cancer in children is a traumatic event, causing major disruption in family dynamics and imbalance. Beltrão et al (2007) says in its survey that the maternal speeches at the time of diagnosis were permeated by intensive emotional component, described as a unique experience, shocking, painful, traumatic and desperate.

For Ortiz and Lima (2007), receiving the news of a diagnosis of cancer triggers a cascade of reactions, feelings and attitudes in mothers as fear, anger, guilt and search for help. The mother lives a time of uncertainty, fear and anxiety of the lack of control that manifest themselves in the position of disease (MOREIRA, 2007).

Knowing that the child has cancer and realize that his / her life is threatened, the mother refers to feelings of sadness and an anticipated loss, a feeling that her time as the mother of that child could end (MOREIRA, 2007).

**2. Feelings of mothers experienced during treatment**

For Moreira (2007), the treatment is living a time of the disease in which risk is their only option to avoid losing the child, despite all of insecurity caused by the disease. Moreover, it is a time of the disease in which the mother experience the fear of not knowing what will happen in the next moment.

With the treatment the mother leaves a condition of life and going to live between home and hospital. That means living under anxiety and apprehension that at any time during the day or night, the life of your child may be at risk and it is necessary to act (MOREIRA, 2007).

Viana (2004) says that by staying in the hospital, monitoring the treatment of their children, the mother loses the meeting with the family, appearing to miss complaints and concerns with those who stayed at home. There is a conflict of feelings, which demonstrates the desire to be beside the sick child, and willingness to return to daily family life.

**3. Feelings of mothers after treatment**

Ortiz and Lima (2007), in their studies affirm that the mothers mentioned joy at the end of therapy, but at the same time, reported their feelings of fear and concerns related to physical adaptations and sequels to the child.

However, the constant threat of relapse and the possibility of restarting a new treatment shows the feeling of insecurity present in the mothers of those who survived the cancer (ORTIZ AND LIMA, 2007).

There is, therefore, uncertainty and fear about the future, because the cancer is a complex disease and leads a person to loss of control on his life and with it, threatens the future (ANJOS and ZAGO, 2006).

**4. Theory of Social Representations**

Aware that a social representation involves various mental and cultural products, such as beliefs, perceptions, opinions, images, concepts and many others, as forms of knowledge that guide the actions of daily life. The study of social representations search grasping the complexity of the object in question. (SPINK apud CAGNIN, LISTON and DUPAS, 2004).

Therefore, knowing that the child is inserted into the social context of the family which is part of, this frame is seen as quite appropriate to the reality of this study, since it provides a better theoretical and a better basis for analysis and understanding of the feelings experienced by mothers of children undergoing cancer treatment or who have experienced the disease.

It is important to note that is also extremely important for the health professional understand the representation of the disease for the family, making it possible that from then are put strategies in order to enhance the interaction between the mother and child, the child and the professional nursing, seeking thereby to assist in a humanized dyad child and family.

#### FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

From that reference survey is important to emphasize that these mothers may experience this time with less anguish and suffering, if the team beyond the field of health and technical skills, become available to establish effective interaction with these women, turning on its partners in maternal experience to experience the illness of his son.

It is extremely important to respect subjective dimension that the representations of childhood cancer sublimate, in addition to the biomedical paradigm, that object / disease that is challenging the scientific knowledge, particularly in the health field.

This study reinforces therefore the importance of assessing and providing support to maternal feelings, throughout the course of the illness of his son since the confirmation of cancer until after treatment.

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#### THE EVENT OF A DISEASE AS CANCER: THE REPRESENTATIONAL LOOK OF MOTHERS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED

##### ABSTRACT:

This study deals with a literature research that aimed to identify the sentiments that permeate the daily lives of mothers during the diagnosis and treatment of their children with cancer. The childhood cancer affects more than five thousand children and adolescents in our country, leading to more than two thousand deaths a year in the ages of 0 to 19 years, with a gradual increase in cases. Mothers, in most cases, accompanying the children since the early signs and symptoms through the anguish of the confirmation of diagnosis and throughout the treatment of the disease and are often dealing with the physical and emotional exhaustion. The data of the study were obtained by searching the databases of USP, UNICAP, LILACS and SciELO, during the months of March and April 2008. The articles were selected and grouped into four categories: 1) the gaze of mothers before the diagnosis of cancer, 2) feelings of the mothers experienced during treatment, 3) feelings of the mothers after treatment, 4) theory of social representations inserted in that context. It follows that having a child with cancer is always live surrounded by feelings of: fear, sadness, uncertainty, anxiety, among others. There is a need of, by the professionals engaged in this area, conducting a full assistance to support these mothers along all this history, looking for these mothers to provide a better understanding of its holdings in that context.

KEYWORDS: Pediatric nursing, Child, Relation mother-son and Family.

#### LE CAS D'UNE MALADIE TELLES QUE LE CANCER: LE REGARD REPRÉSENTACIONAL DES MÈRES DES ENFANTS TOUCHÉS.

##### RÉSUMÉ:

Cette étude traite d'une littérature de recherche visant à identifier les sentiments qui imprègnent la vie quotidienne des mères pendant le diagnostic et le traitement de leurs enfants atteints de cancer. Les cancers de l'enfant affecte plus de cinq mille enfants et adolescents dans notre pays, conduisant à plus de deux mille morts par an, dans les âges de 0 à 19 ans, avec une augmentation progressive des cas. Dans la plupart des cas, les mères qui accompagnent les enfants depuis le début des signes et des symptômes, en passant par l'angoisse de la confirmation du diagnostic, sont souvent traitant de la physique et émotionnel d'épuisement pendant toute la durée du traitement de la maladie. Les données de l'étude ont été obtenus par la recherche des bases de données de l'USP, Unicap, LILACS et SciELO, pendant les mois de Mars et Avril 2008. Les articles ont été sélectionnés et regroupés en quatre catégories: 1) le regard de la mère avant le diagnostic de cancer, 2) les sentiments de la mère au cours de traitement, 3) les sentiments de la mère après le traitement, 4) la théorie des représentations sociales inséré dans ce contexte. Il s'ensuit que le fait d'avoir un enfant avec le cancer est toujours entouré par des sentiments de peur, de tristesse, de l'incertitude,

de l'anxiété, entre autres. Il est nécessaire, par conséquent, de par les professionnels engagés dans ce domaine, la réalisation d'une assistance complète à l'appui de ces mères au cours de toute cette histoire, en essayant de fournir à ces mères une meilleure compréhension de ses participations dans ce contexte.

MOTS-CLÉS: Soins infirmiers pédiatriques, Enfant, Relation parent-enfant et la famille.

### **EL CASO DE UNA ENFERMEDAD COMO EL CÁNCER: LA MIRA REPRESENTACIONAL DE MADRES DE LOS NIÑOS AFECTADOS**

#### **RESUMEN:**

Este estudio se refiere a una búsqueda bibliográfica que tiene por objeto identificar los sentimientos que impregnan la vida cotidiana de las madres durante el diagnóstico y el tratamiento de sus hijos con cáncer. El cáncer infantil afecta a más de cinco mil niños, niñas y adolescentes en Brasil, lo que lleva a más de dos mil muertes al año en las edades de 0 a 19 años, con un gradual aumento de los casos. Las madres, en la mayoría de los casos, que acompañan a los niños desde los primeros signos y síntomas a través de la angustia de la confirmación del diagnóstico y durante el tratamiento de la enfermedad y con frecuencia se ocupan de lo agotamiento físico y emocional. Los datos del estudio se obtuvieron mediante la búsqueda en las bases de datos de la USP, UNICAMP, LILACS y SciELO, durante los meses de marzo y abril de 2008. Los artículos fueron seleccionados y agrupados en cuatro categorías: 1) la mirada de las madres antes del diagnóstico de cáncer, 2) los sentimientos de las madres experimentaron durante el tratamiento, 3) los sentimientos de las madres después del tratamiento, 4) la teoría de las representaciones sociales inserta en ese contexto. Se deduce que tener un niño con cáncer es vivir siempre rodeada de sentimientos de: miedo, tristeza, incertidumbre, ansiedad, entre otros. Hay una necesidad de los profesionales que participan en este ámbito, la realización de una plena asistencia para apoyar a estas madres en el transcurso de toda esta historia, en busca de estas madres para proporcionar una mejor comprensión de sus participaciones en ese contexto.

PALABRAS-CLAVE: Enfermería pediátrica, Niño, Relación madre-hijo y Familia

### **O EVENTO DE UMA DOENÇA COMO O CÂNCER: O OLHAR REPRESENTACIONAL DAS MÃES DE CRIANÇAS ACOMETIDAS**

#### **RESUMO:**

O presente estudo trata-se de uma pesquisa bibliográfica que teve como objetivos identificar os sentimentos que perpassam o cotidiano das mães durante o período de diagnóstico e tratamento de seus filhos com câncer. O câncer infantil atinge mais de cinco mil crianças e adolescentes em nosso país, levando a mais de dois mil óbitos por ano nas idades de 0 a 19 anos, verificando-se um progressivo aumento de casos. As mães, na maioria dos casos, que acompanham os filhos desde os primeiros sinais e sintomas, passando pela angústia da confirmação do diagnóstico e durante todo o tratamento da doença, estando frequentemente lidando com o desgaste físico e emocional. Os dados do estudo foram obtidos através de pesquisa nas bases de dados da USP, UNICAMP, LILACS e SciELO, durante os meses de março e abril de 2008. Os artigos foram selecionados e agrupados em quatro categorias: 1) o olhar das mães diante do diagnóstico de câncer; 2) sentimentos das mães vivenciados durante o tratamento; 3) sentimentos das mães após o tratamento; 4) teoria das representações sociais inseridas nesse contexto. Conclui-se que ter um filho com câncer é viver sempre envolvida por sentimentos de: medo, tristeza, incertezas, ansiedade, temor, entre outros. Sendo necessário, portanto, por parte dos profissionais que atuam nessa área, a realização de uma assistência integral de apoio a essas mães no decorrer de toda essa trajetória, procurando propiciar a essas mães uma melhor compreensão de suas participações nesse contexto.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Enfermagem pediátrica, Criança, Relação mãe-filho e Família.